

**COWLITZ, KALAMA, LEWIS ADULT SPRING CHINOOK
2022 RUN FORECASTS AND RETURNS, AND
2023 RUN FORECASTS**

River	2022				2023	
	Tributary Forecast	Tributary Return	Col River Forecast	Col River Return	Tributary Forecast	Col River Forecast
Cowlitz	3,960	7,011	4,100	7,146	8,710	9,000
Kalama	1,960	2,928	2,000	3,148	2,330	2,400
Lewis	2,290	6,779	2,400	6,875	4,570	4,700
Total	8,210	16,718	8,500	17,169	15,610	16,100

*Tributary forecasts and returns are to the tributary mouths; Columbia River return and forecast is to the Columbia River mouth.

**The Columbia River forecast numbers are rounded to the nearest 100s place, which is consistent with TAC protocol.

- The 2023 Cowlitz River spring Chinook forecast is similar to the recent 10-year average return of 9,900 and would be the highest return since 2017.
- The 2023 Kalama River spring Chinook forecast is similar to the recent 10-year average return of 2,100.
- The 2023 Lewis River spring Chinook forecast is greater than the recent 10-year average return of 2,300 and would be the second highest return since 2007.
- Several ocean ecosystem indicators, especially in near-shore areas, were tracking in a manner that generally leads to low ocean survival for some salmon stocks from 2015-2017 but began to improve in 2018. These indicators include Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), upwelling, sea-surface temperature, and plankton abundance. Based on these indicators, adults returning in 2023 generally experienced improved ocean conditions during their ocean migration period. For more information on historical ocean conditions, refer to <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/ocean-ecosystem-indicators-pacific-salmon-marine-survival-northern>

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Region 5- Ridgefield
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